
First record of Brown Noddy *Anous stolidus* for Guinea-Bissau

Jan van der Winden^a and Hamilton Monteiro^b

Première mention du Noddi brun *Anous stolidus* pour la Guinée-Bissau. Le 19 janvier 2006, un Noddi brun *Anous stolidus* adulte a été découvert et photographié sur l'Île d'Acapa Imbone (11°00'N 16°04'W), dans l'archipel des Bijagós, Guinée-Bissau. L'oiseau était en train de se reposer au bord d'une colonie de Sternes caspiennes *Sterna caspia*. Ceci constitue la première donnée pour le pays de cette espèce, qui est occasionnelle le long des côtes Ouest africaines en dehors de la saison de reproduction.

In January 2006, during a waterbird census of major coastal wetlands from Mauritania to Sierra Leone, coordinated by Wetlands International, we visited the Bijagós Archipelago in Guinea-Bissau. On 19 January, we were on Acapa Imbone Island (11°00'N 16°04'W), south of Orango Island, to census the Caspian Tern *Sterna caspia* breeding colony. At the edge of the colony we discovered a resting noddy *Anous* sp. The bird could be approached down to 20 m and was photographed (Fig. 1). It was entirely dark

brown with a white cap fading to grey on the rear crown and nape, and had a relatively heavy bill. These features identified it as an adult Brown Noddy *Anous stolidus*. Black Noddy *A. minutus*, which also is a vagrant to West African coasts, has darker, more blackish plumage, a more contrasting and extensive white cap, and a more slender bill (Borrow & Demey 2001).

In this region, Brown Noddy is a vagrant away from its breeding grounds (mainly the Tinhosas Islands and Annobón) in the eastern Gulf of

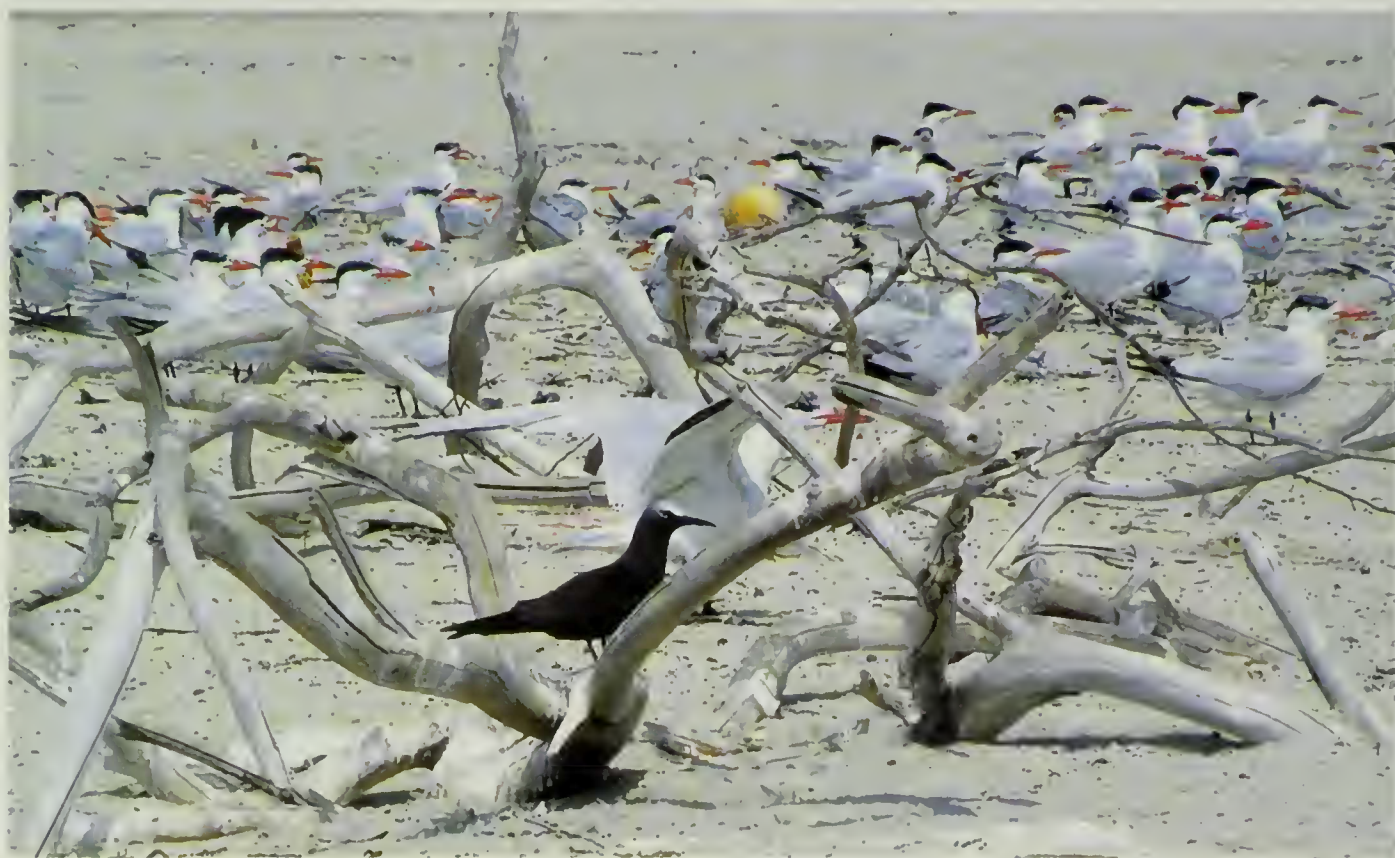


Figure 1. Brown Noddy *Anous stolidus* in a Caspian Tern *Sterna caspia* colony, Acapa Imbone Island, Bijagós Archipelago, Guinea-Bissau, 19 January 2006 (Jan van der Winden)

Noddi brun *Anous stolidus* dans une colonie de Sternes caspiennes *Sterna caspia*, Île d'Acapa Imbone, Archipel des Bijagós, Guinée-Bissau, 19 janvier 2006 (Jan van der Winden)

Guinea. Incidental records in West Africa are available from The Gambia, Sierra Leone, Ghana, Nigeria, Gabon and Bioko (Borrow & Demey 2001). It is, however, not mentioned in the recent updated checklist of Guinea-Bissau (Dodman *et al.* 2004). The record reported here is therefore the first for the country. A Brown Noddy (the same individual?) was observed at the same site on 24 May 2006 (Veen & Dallmeijer 2007).

Acknowledgements

Joãozinho Sá and Tim Dodman (Wetlands International) and Bernd de Bruijn (Vogelbescherming Nederland) are thanked for their support in organising and funding the Guinea-Bissau census. Anton Costa, Januario G. Silva, Fay Djedjo, Bacar Coma and Frank Willems joined the census. Tim Dodman and Ron Demey commented on a draft of this note and kindly suggested improvements.

References

- Borrow, N. & Demey, R. 2001. *Birds of Western Africa*. London, UK: Christopher Helm.
- Dodman T., Barlow, C., Sa, J. & Robertson, P. 2004. *Important Bird Areas in Guinea-Bissau*. Dakar: Wetlands International & Bissau: Gabinete de Planificação Costeira / ODZH.
- Veen, J. & Dallmeijer, H. 2007. Le suivi de la biodiversité des poissons le long du littoral de l'Afrique de l'Ouest, utilisant les oiseaux marins comme indicateurs (2004). Compte-rendu d'une session de formation réalisée dans l'Archipelago dos Bijagós, en Guinée Bissau, du 16 au 27 mai 2006. Unpubl. rep. to Wetlands International, Dakar.

^aBureau Waardenburg, PO Box 365, 4100 AJ Culemborg, Netherlands. E-mail: J.van.der.winden@buwa.nl

^bWetlands International/Gabinete de Planificação Costeira, Apartado 23, 1031 Codex-Bissau, Guinea-Bissau. E-mail: gpc@mail.gtelecom.gw

Received 7 October 2007; revision accepted 18 November 2007.

Jenner Expeditions

TAILOR MADE TOURS, SELF-GUIDED TOURS, CLUB GROUP TOURS, FIXED DATE TOURS
PLUS EXPLORATORY & PHOTOGRAPHIC EXPEDITIONS

BIRDING ETHIOPIA

MORE CHOICE, MORE EXPERIENCE,
MORE TOURS IN THIS SPECIAL COUNTRY

BIRDING UGANDA/RWANDA

ALBERTINE RIFT ENDEMIC, SHOEBILL

Jenner Expeditions

www.BirdingTours.info

OR CALL +44(0)1342 713858 or
+44(0)1494 721692
Jenner Expeditions
PO Box 764
Crawley RH10 OWL UK



BIRDING ETHIOPIA BIRDING UGANDA birding india